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INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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Tomorrow:
High: 37 °F
Low: 22 °F



Saturday:
High: 28 °F
Low: 14 °F

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Friday marks 45th Anniversary of Nichols Fire

Ross Jensby
Contributing Writer

This Friday the 13th marks the 45th anniversary of the 1968 fire that nearly burned Nichols Gymnasium to the ground. The fire left the remaining structure untouched and barely used for 17 years. Many students at K-State recognize the Nichols Hall fire for the creation of the traditional usage “The Wabash Cannonball,” because the music was taken home by a music instructor that night. However, this iconic building on the K-State campus also has an important and lasting legacy that involves arson, protest and passionate student involvement.

The 1960s were an intense time for universities all across the country. The assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and political dissatisfaction with United States involvement in Vietnam had created a heated atmosphere in U.S. Students, and young people around the country began to question the government, the military and institutions of higher education. These types of feelings were not absent at K-State.

Ed Klimek, market manager for Eagle Communications in Manhattan, was a student at the time of the 1968 fire. As the program director for the student radio station, which was housed in Nichols Gym at the time, Klimek was the last person out of the building when it was burning. He remembers the heated atmosphere on campus at the time of these events.

“There were many national protests going on around the country,” Klimek said. “These groups had a pocket of influence at K-State. These protesters on campus wanted more rights for minority students.”

Klimek also said there was a nationwide movement of dissidence on college campuses that involved the burning of college buildings.

In 1965, two student arsonists started a fire that destroyed KSU Auditorium, according to a Manhattan Mercury article from Nov. 11, 2011. KSU Auditorium was the precursor to what is now McCain Auditorium. Both arsonists were students in the department of music. Klimek said that

this fire was set for a different purpose than the Nichols Gym fire. These student arsonists were unhappy with the condition of the auditorium.

According to a March 9, 1983 article in The Collegian, the day before Nichols was set on fire was quite contentious. A meeting was held between students and faculty that was designed for both parties to air complaints. It quickly got out of hand, and one student said that he wouldn’t mind seeing Anderson Hall burn down. K-State President James McCain quickly organized night watchmen and patrols to protect campus buildings. Several small fires were discovered on campus that night, including one near Anderson Hall.

The next night, Friday, Dec. 13, 1968, Klimek was at the Sunflower Classic Tournament basketball game at Ahearn Fieldhouse. After the game concluded, Klimek headed to Nichols Gym to check on the student disc jockey who was working that evening.

“When I got over to Nichols, I noticed some wood planks stacked on the north side of the entryway. They were on fire. When the student fire department arrived with their 1940s fire truck, the fire was spreading inside. The flames got in the gym and hit the second floor running track. The fire spread rapidly after that,” Klimek said.

Klimek then went to the west side of the building, which housed the campus radio stations and the music department. A wall separated the fire in the gym from this part of the building.

“I ran upstairs to check on the DJ. He had already exited the building when I arrived. I started to leave, but I went back up to see if I could save any of the radio equipment. The Manhattan Fire Department showed up. They grabbed a hold of me and escorted me out of the building,” Klimek said.

Klimek said the news traveled rapidly despite the fire being in the age of no mobile phones or email.

“You could see the flames from miles away. It drew a really huge crowd of people,” Klimek said. “It was a beautiful

“You could see the flames from miles away...It was a beautiful thing to look at. I mean it was a tragedy, but it was beautiful.”

Ed Klimek
market manager for
Eagle Communications in Manhattan



Nichols | pg. 5

Josh Staab | Collegian

Nichols Hall, on Dec. 5th, 2013, almost forty-five years after the historic fire occurred. Although the outer structure remains the same the interior was replaced after the fire.

Studying abroad: tips, advice from students, staff



George Walker | Collegian

A student’s passport was stamped both when they arrived and when they left Barcelona, Spain.

Lauren Holtmeier
Staff Writer

Studying abroad can be a very unique and exciting experience for many students, and K-State offers many study abroad options in a broad selection of countries. However, after committing to a program, getting all the necessary paperwork, forms and pre-arrival arrangements made can be a hectic time for a lot of students.

“There are so many study abroad options out there to various locations and for various lengths of time, if nothing else look at all of your options available to you,” Logan Gauby, peer advisor in the study abroad office, said.

Gauby has also studied abroad two different times; a faculty-led trip to London, Munich and Paris, and a semester trip to Linnaeus University in Sweden.

“For students getting ready to study abroad — take every opportunity you can,” Gauby said. “No matter where or for how long you study abroad, there are going to be experiences you have never

encountered before, but you will undoubtedly grow more than you can ever imagine from each one of those experiences; good, bad or indifferent.”

Kelsey Kramer, junior in marketing, went on a faculty led trip to London and Germany.

“The faculty-led trip was nice because all the planning was done for you,” Kramer said.

She also said that the educational tours that her group went on to the BMW factory and the Chelsea football — soccer, to most Americans — stadium were fun and interesting. Kramer advised that anyone looking to study abroad or travel in general, should pack light to allow space for souvenirs, plan ahead because Wi-Fi access is not always possible to find, and keep all valuables in front of you to prevent them from being stolen.

Grace Bokelman, graduate student in grain science, studied at University College Dublin in the spring semester of 2011. She said she really enjoyed having the freedom to travel to the places

she wanted to go on her own time schedule.

“It allowed me to become more comfortable as an independent traveler, even though that meant getting lost and asking for directions,” Bokelman said.

Bokelman said that she would suggest trying to make connections with people at the university before arriving and that meeting other international students at the university is important.

“That really kind of helped me out because you’re all on the same page,” she said.

One challenge for Bokelman, while getting used to Dublin, was figuring out the transportation system. Public transportation was not something that she’d had to use a lot growing up in rural Kansas.

No matter how different their experiences or destinations were Gauby, Kramer and Bokelman all said that they enjoyed their time spent abroad.

“There were no bad parts. I never regretted anything,” Bokelman said.

The Brian Setzer Orchestra rocks McCain Auditorium

Brian Setzer rocked the house of McCain Wednesday night performing his “Christmas Rock” tour. Along with 17 other band members performing Christmas tunes to songs from back in the era of Jonny Cash, Setzer had the crowd up and dancing the whole night.

Todd Holmberg, executive director of McCain Auditorium, shared his reasons for choosing Brian Setzer for the holiday show.

“I have immense respect for artists that break new ground,” Holmberg said. “A rock and roll guitarist fronting a big band that is usually associated with playing jazz is exciting and innovative.”

Brian Setzer, a singer-songwriter, guitarist and band leader has been playing music since the age of eight. Starting with his first instrument called the euphonium, a tuba-like instrument, Setzer had realized his love and passion for music. Following his dreams, Setzer learned to play the guitar, and was a former band member for the group called the Stray Cats. After touring the world, Setzer still had his mind set on something he had been dreaming of all along, creating a big band with a lead guitarist, which is now known as The Brian Setzer Orchestra.

Wayne Goins, director of jazz studies and guitar, voiced his opinion on Setzer from a musician’s stand point.

“Brian Setzer has gone above and beyond the call of

Setzer | pg. 5

PowercatPR runs charity drive for local critters

Rebecca Oberrieder
staff writer

‘Tis the season for holiday themed fundraising events and this year PowercatPR has added another opportunity to the calendar for K-State students to give back to the community. Members of PowercatPR, the K-State chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America, began a week long drive on Monday that aims to collect old blankets, sheets, and shirts for the Riley County Humane Society.

Members of PowercatPR decided earlier in the semester that they were interested in giving back to the community. The organization’s faculty advisor, Barb DeSanto, played a major role in deciding how they would give back.

“We knew we wanted to do something, and Dr. Barb really loves her cats, so we thought that would be a fun way of giving back,” Fred Amstutz, senior in mass communications and President of PowercatPR, said.

The group also took into consideration that many students and staff members have to deal with giving up their pets to go to college or to work. This is true for Birgit Wassmuth, director of A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, who had to leave her dog with her husband in Georgia to pursue her job at K-state.

The Riley County Humane Society is an

all-volunteer, non-profit organization that works to promote the welfare of animals in the Manhattan community. RCHS does not run the local animal shelter, but works mostly with organizing adoptions and finding foster homes for animals. RCHS is entirely supported by donations and modest membership

“We wanted to think of things that people had around that they didn’t think they had a use for.”

Dr. Barb DeSanto
journalism professor

fees.

The idea for the blanket and shirt drive was inspired by the recent chilly weather.

DeSanto said that the volunteers with the RCHS were in need of materials, such as blankets and old shirts, to make beds to keep the animals warm as the temperatures dropped.

“We don’t always want just money,” DeSanto said. “We wanted to think of things that

people had around that they didn’t think they had a use for. I say, if you are done with high school, put those shirts in the box.”

RCHS will also be able to use any donated shirts to give to volunteers. Volunteers will wear the donated shirts while working with the animals and to clean out dirty cages so that they do not ruin their own clothing.

The members of PowercatPR are also accepting monetary donations. Yesterday, the group took Brady, a one-year-old Australian sheep dog that belongs to a PowercatPR member, around the journalism school to collect donations. DeSanto reported that almost every faculty member donated to the cause.

With the drive almost half-way over, many animal-loving students are already taking advantage of the opportunity to give back to their furry friends.

“I have two cats back home and I love them,” Hallie Beck, sophomore in personal finance, said. “It would be great to see all cats get the same comfort that mine get back home, so this is a great way for me to do my part in making that a reality.”

The blanket and shirt drive will run through tomorrow. Donations can be dropped in to a collection box in Kedzie 105, and monetary donations that can be left in the same room. There will be a reward for the individual who donates the most items.

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34 — de deux

35 One of the Brady bunch

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40 Sweater destroyer

41 Horselike

45 Thing

47 Kreskin's claim

49 "American —"

50 Neck hair

51 Pirouette pivot

52 Golf gadgets

53 Sympathetic sorrow

54 Right angle

55 Auction

DOWN

1 Clothing

2 Settled down

3 Old Italian money

4 Lassie et al.

5 In two places

6 Back talk

7 Connecting

8 Uniform shade

9 Franchise operator

10 Guitar's cousin

11 Club —

19 Type measures

21 Possess

23 Zoo howler

24 Paraphernalia

25 Without

26 Arizona tribe

27 Persia, now

28 Ceremonial robe

32 Underbrush cutter

33 Pope Francis, et al.

35 Lustrous black

36 Without delay, initially

38 Pal from the 'hood

39 Ward off

42 Thought

43 Yuletide tune

44 Differently

45 Mischievous tyke

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Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 12-12

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12-12 CRYPTOQUIP

CF EFM CJ KXCV RYHH XBXG

LXAO UP PKX VOYC FZ SE

AKXVP. Y'S UHRUEV RXUGYCI

U LMHHXP - LGFFZ BXVP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY MOTHER REALLY HATES GOING TO THE GYM. SHE USUALLY CALLS THE MACHINES THERE DREAD-MILLS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals O

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4			5	2		6	1	
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Difficulty Level ★★★

12/12

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the FOURUM

785-260-0207

Like and vote for your favorite posts at theforum.net!

The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff

Missouri is where it's at. CHIEFS!

Hey Miss Meyers! You're in the wrong major sweetheart. The Ag department is where you belong!

HEY KSTATE BASKETBALL MAKE A FREE THROW! YOU GET A FREE RIDE - NOW, MAKE ONE THATS WHY YOU ARE HERE.

I really appreciated the article by Laura Meyers. Thank you for publishing it. Please continue allowing reasonable views such as these to be published despite the ridiculous backlash from all the "tolerant" people. Again, very much appreciated.

Laura Meyers' column is so refreshing. Often it's the only thing in The Collegian that gets me thinking/laughing.

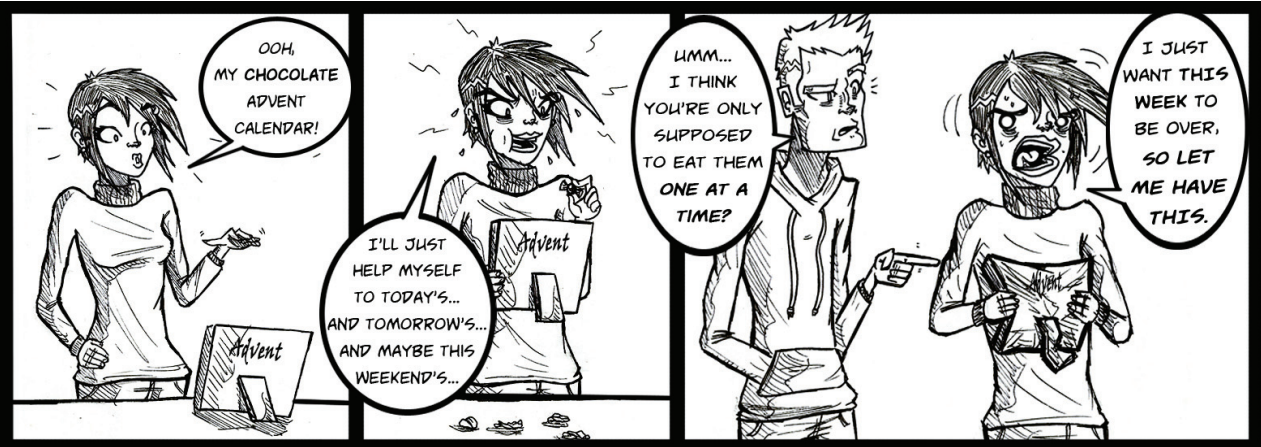
Laura Meyers' name will one day be mentioned in the same breath of Ann Coulter...most likely the nasty breath of an angry liberal.

The people angry at the outrage over Laura Meyers' article disproved what little credibility she had. Teapot calling the kettle calling the teapot, anyone?

Whoever said: People who say "Chiefs" instead of brave should move to Missouri... first off its all the Johnson county people and maybe Kansas should get their own team.

To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email theforum@kstatecollegian.com. Your e-mail address or phone number is logged but not published.

For the Win | By Parker Wilhelm



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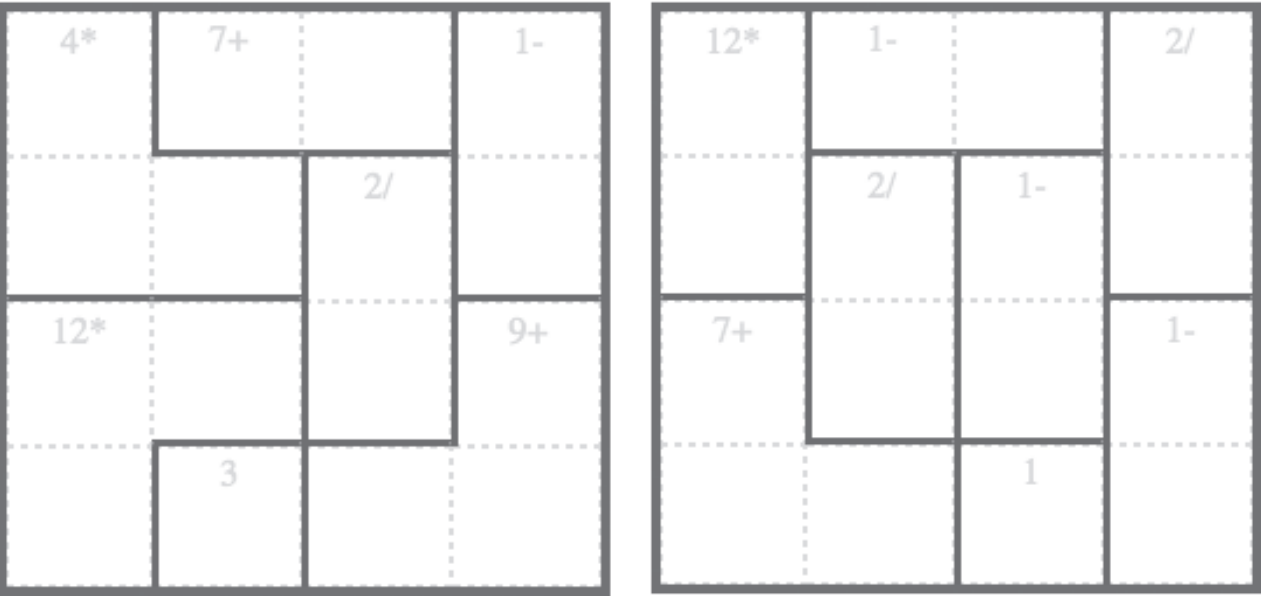
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KenKen | Medium

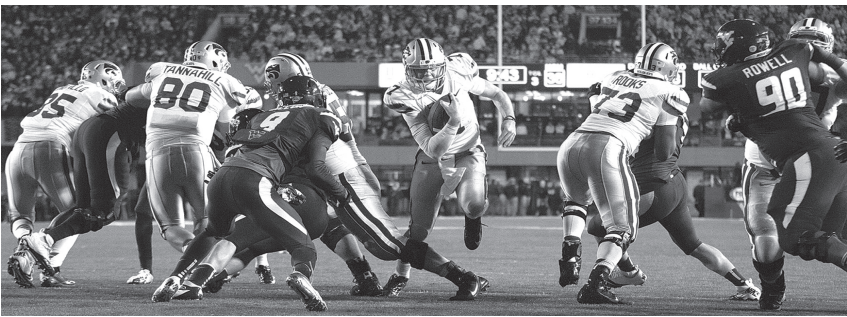
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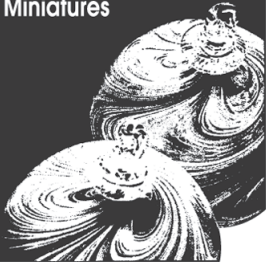
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HEAD 2 HEAD

Saban should continue dynasty



Emilio Rivera

A proven team, a winning culture, and a football environment unlike any other in college football. That is what Nick Saban has with the Crimson Tide. Saban has built a dynasty in Tuscaloosa, Ala., putting a program on his shoulders that was seemingly downtrodden before he arrived. So the question remains, why leave a dynasty-like program to go to a Texas team that will need to be refocused and set on the right path again?

Saban is the first coach since Paul "Bear" Bryant to win more than one conference and national championship at Alabama. That is over thirty years of coaches that came and went between Bryant and Saban. In that gap, the Crimson Tide only had three conference championships and one national title. Three conference championships for a program that had 25 when Bryant retired is a pitiful amount.

Saban inherited a team riddled with sanctions stemming from textbook infractions, having to forfeit wins from the end of Mike Shula's tenure and at the beginning of his own. In the ten years prior to his arrival, the tide went a combined 67-55 with just three 10-win seasons. The Tide were an inconsistent team, having a 10-win season one year and being bowl-ineligible the next. Since he has been the coach, his team is anything but inconsistent.

Saban has only been with the Crimson Tide for seven years, but he has three national championships with the team. He has also won the conference championship in the SEC, arguably the hardest conference in college football, twice. He has compiled a 79-14 record with the Crimson Tide, while winning 10 or more ballgames in every season but his first.

Saban has made four collegiate stops in his career, including a one-year stint at Toledo, and five seasons at both Michigan State and LSU. Saban has always moved up to a more historically-prestigious program. But Saban is already at the top of the mountain with Alabama, there is no other team that could say they have a better program or a more prestigious history than the Crimson Tide. Alabama is the Yankees of collegiate football, why would he want to leave?

Money is the only thing that has the opportunity to move Saban. Saban is already the highest paid coach in college football raking in over \$5.62 million this season. Saban even signed a two-year contract extension in



March of 2012 averaging over \$5.62 million a year through 2019. If anyone thinks that the Tide would not offer more than Texas to keep their star coach is sadly mistaken. Alabama athletic director Bill Battle would have to be crazy not to go to world's end to keep the face of his program.

Saban has a chance to continue the dominance he has had in Tuscaloosa. He has garnered all of the national coach year awards, except the Bear Bryant award, since arriving to coach the Tide. He has had the opportunity to coach three Heisman Trophy finalists including the 2009 winner, running back Mark Ingram.

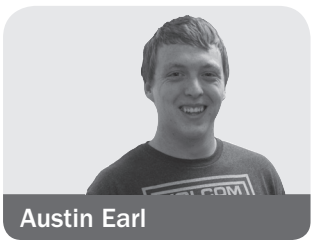
One common argument for his leaving is that Saban would be able to have a recruiting hold in the talent-rich state of Texas, because recruiting is something that he cherishes. He obviously isn't having much of an issue with recruiting at Alabama, because Saban always has near the best recruiting classes every year. Every player wants to compete for national championships, and that's what Saban's Crimson Tide gives those players the chance to do every year. The state of Alabama might not be as talent-rich as Texas, but as long as you win like the Tide does, it doesn't make a difference.

Another common rallying cry for Longhorn fans is that Saban would be a perfect fit for a Texas team that will need to be "rebuilt." Now rebuilding is a strong word for a Texas team that is loaded with talent, refocusing is a better word. Saban has an amazing talent for turning teams around, and he could probably get Texas to go in the right direction. The question is, would Saban — at the ever-young age of 62 — want to take on the huge task of getting Texas out of mediocrity?

Now, Saban is a genius and will use this situation to raise his salary to a legendary proportion, but he won't leave Alabama. Until his new contract gets signed, Alabama fans will be held breathless. But ponder this: if living in Bryant's shadow is too much for Saban to handle, how silly would his statue outside of Bryant-Denny Stadium look if he decides to leave?

Emilio Rivera is a freshman in pre-journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com

Texas, Saban a great fit



Austin Earl



Alabama Crimson Tide head coach Nick Saban has a huge decision on his hands. The four-time National Champion has the opportunity to move to Austin, Texas to get the Texas Longhorns back to college football prominence.

Saban has had a great coaching career outside of a short stint with the Miami Dolphins. He turned around Michigan State. In 2001 he led LSU to their first SEC Title in 13 years, and two years later he got them a National Title. He is now at Alabama where he has won three National Titles. It is Saban's nature to turn programs into national powers. He has vastly improved every team he has coached.

With Saban's dominant success at Alabama, what does he have left to accomplish? Almost every dream a coach can have, he has fulfilled with the Crimson Tide. By the precedent Saban has set for himself, it is time for him to move on. His tenure at Alabama is the longest that Saban has coached anywhere. This move makes sense for him. It's time for a new challenge.

Saban denied that he is going to be the next coach of Texas in September. But let's not forget what he said in 2006 while he was the head coach of the Dolphins.

"I'm not going to be the Alabama coach," Saban said according to ESPN. "I don't know how many times I've got to respond to rumor and innuendo. I've stated what my intentions are, and they really haven't changed, so I don't know what the issue is."

Just four days after Saban said that, he took the head coaching job at Alabama. Of course he isn't going to say that he is looking at another job while he is still coaching in Tuscaloosa, Ala., but Saban has a track record of leaving. It doesn't make him a bad person, it just means he wants something to new.

Texas is the perfect place for Nick Saban to build another dynasty. The state of Texas has better recruits than Alabama. Out of the Rivals' Top-100 recruits, Texas is home to 12 of them, compared to Alabama's six. Saban is already a coach who gets top recruits constantly, and being in

Texas would only help him improve on that.

Another thing that can help Saban is Texas' marketing. Texas has much better marketing than Alabama. The Longhorn Network is a major proponent of this. Instead of having the SEC Network, which will serve Alabama's entire conference, Texas has the Longhorn Network. By having their own TV station, the Texas Longhorns are seen all over the place. This kind of exposure lets prospects see the famous Longhorn logo for the entirety of their childhood.

If Saban leaves for Texas, he will be taking over an already very talented team. The Longhorns are loaded with former five-star recruits and have great athletes on both sides of the ball. Saban is a rare coach that can get the best out of great players. A lot of highly touted prospects never meet their expectations because they don't have a coach that can get them to play their best football. For Saban, that's not often the case. But even when he does have a bust, he's such a good recruiter that it doesn't matter because the next player can just take the bust's place.

Having Nick Saban in the Big 12 would give Texas, and the conference, an interesting new dynamic. His teams have always been dominant defensively, while the Big 12 has been all about offense recently. If Saban brings his trademark defense to the Big 12, it might get shredded; or it might shut down some of the most prolific offenses in the country.

Saban's teams also normally have a good offense that likes to run the ball. His former players like Eddie Lacy, Mark Ingram, and Trent Richardson have all found their way onto NFL rosters and into the early parts of drafts. In a conference that likes to air it out, this would bring a new challenge to opposing defenses.

Nick Saban taking over at Texas is a win for both parties. Saban would get a new challenge and Texas would be a winner once again.

Austin Earl is a freshman in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com

Holiday Music Spectacular first step in Memorial stage renovation



Parker Robb | Collegian

Members of the a cappella group In-A-Chord perform NSYNC's arrangement of "O Holy Night" at the Holiday Music Spectacular held in Peace Memorial Auditorium attached to City Hall Wednesday.

Corbin McGuire
staff writer

K-State's Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity performed last night in front of a little more than 100 people in Manhattan's Peace Memorial Auditorium in City Hall to help raise money for the restoration of the auditorium's stage. The city commission had voted to take it out in June before public outcry caused it reconsider its options.

The fraternity performed in separate groups, some performing holiday tunes with only instruments and others singing a

cappella.

The group ended the Holiday Music Spectacular, which was free to the public with donations for renovating the stage accepted, with a chorus of "White Christmas."

"I thought it was really good. There was a nice selection of groups," Claire Boyts, junior in elementary education, said. "Usually at concerts, you'll see mostly oral groups, so I liked that they had a little bit of both. They had a pretty decent turnout."

The idea for the event started with the fraternity, which partnered with the Manhattan/Riley

County Preservation Alliance.

"Our organization had stepped forward and said publicly that we would help fundraise because the city commission had challenged, 'that if this space is so important to people, then the private sector should help fundraise for it,'" Kathy Dzewaltowski, president of the M/RCPA, said.

Chris Boxberger, graduate student in academic advising, and president of the Phi Mu Alpha's alumni association, said helping save the arts was a big factor in getting involved with the fundraising.

"This is the first event in the auditorium to kind of help bring awareness to it so people are more aware, because it's not out of the woods yet in terms of being torn down," Boxberger said. "Now we have a partnership with the [M/RCPA] and the fraternity is actually going to start coming in here and start scraping off all the gum on the bottom of these wooden chairs, and then eventually they're going to keep doing fundraising events."

Dzewaltowski said overall the stage, "probably needs hundreds of thousands of dollars of work," but everyone involved is being realistic and starting small.

"It needs a better sound system because right now there is no sound system, and you can see they [Phi Mu Alpha] brought their own," Dzewaltowski said. "But you can't plug it in the auditorium because the power system is not adequate to plug it in so it has to be plugged in at the new part of the building."

Additionally, the city commission voted in September to reconsider options to the renovation project, which Jason Hilgers,

deputy city manager, said in an email could drag out as far as next fall before a plan is voted on.

"I anticipate public meetings in January to gain feedback from the public on the renovation of the auditorium," Hilgers said. "A city commission presentation will be made in March or April, once options are to a point they can be presented and receive direction/feedback on how to proceed to final design. If the commission decides to proceed to final design, that process will likely be in the summer/fall of 2014, then the commission can decide to place the design out to bid for construction. It is conceivable construction could start sometime in late 2014 or early 2015."

Dzewaltowski said the uncertainty of which way the city commission will ultimately decide has kept the M/RCPA from setting a concrete fundraising goal.

"I'm looking at it as smaller little bites — better sound system, electrical upgrades and then look at what else we need," Dzewaltowski said.

Manhattan resident and

K-State graduate Randi Dale started the public objection after the city commission voted on a \$2.9 million project that called for the removal of permanent seating in the auditorium to create two floors of office space for the city's parks and recreation department, as well as removing the stage for additional basketball court space.

"I was the one that first realized the city commission had voted actually to take out the wooden chairs, take out the stage and turn this into an all-purpose athletic event, but forgetting the arts," Dale said. "What we're trying to do is make the community aware of the needs."

Dale also said the auditorium needs to be saved for the reason it was completed in 1955: to honor World War II veterans.

"It is a World War II living memorial, which means that sometimes living memorials get forgotten about what the purpose of them are," Dale said. "It was to honor World War II veterans and the 101 Gold Star Veterans that died."

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Bluemont Hotel is a poor choice for its location



Lauren Komer

I used to think that nothing was more frustrating than game day traffic. Sitting bumper-to-bumper, the five-minute drive to the stadium turns into a 45-minute ordeal on the way out. Recently, I've had to amend my statement. Now it goes: nothing is more frustrating than game-day traffic in a construction zone. Especially when that construction zone has been around since the beginning of last semester.

In case you weren't aware, the reason part of Bluemont Avenue has been consistently closed down since spring 2013 is due to the construction of the new Bluemont Hotel.

I wasn't a fan of the hotel in the first place. In a city with a housing shortage, why would anyone build a hotel on a lot so perfectly suited for an apartment building?

As I begin my quest to find an apartment for next year, my biggest requirement is to live somewhere close enough to walk to campus. I know this means I'll be paying a little extra, but it's worth it to me not to have to deal with buying a parking pass and gas and trying to find a parking spot every morning. From where the hotel is situated, it's a 30-second walk to campus or Aggieville. I know quite a few students who would be more than willing to shell out some extra bucks each month to live in such a prime location.

Sure, it's also convenient for the out-of-towners wanting to celebrate after a K-State football victory. I'm certain the hotel will be sold out every game day, especially considering the number of sold-out home games

this past football season. But other than for those nights, that hotel will stand fairly empty. It's such a major waste of residential living space.

Yet even more annoying than the wasted lot is the construction. Like I mentioned earlier, Bluemont Avenue has been blocked off in some way, shape or form since spring 2013.

Unless you've driven the road a couple of times, it can be very confusing as to where each lane leads, making it impossible to navigate on crowded game days with a bunch of out-of-towners trying to make sense of the pattern of orange cones.

It would also be one thing if I saw people actively working on the project. Keeping with my

football theme, the new West Stadium Center and Bill Snyder Family Stadium, in all its glory, was built in nine months. It was amazing to see how fast that monumental building sprang to life. I always saw workers scurrying around, no matter what the weather was like. That project obviously had an important deadline, because it

needed to be finished before the first football game. But I've also watched other buildings spring up in Manhattan with astonishing speed. I swear, one day there were condemned houses lining Moro street, and the next day there was the skeleton of an apartment building. Starting in late winter, it was ready for residents way before leases began in August.

The Bluemont Hotel is an entirely different story. I've very rarely seen any workers around the site, and it wasn't until November that the outline of a building was beginning to form, instead of just looking like a pit of concrete and dirt. The bulldozers and steamrollers were sitting around unused for so long that I actually saw a bulldozer with graffiti spray-painted on its side. I have never seen graffiti on construction equipment before.

The Bluemont Hotel website gives no indication if progress is proceeding as planned. All it says is that the hotel will be completed in 2014. With the way things seem to be going, I would assume that will be fall 2014 at the earliest.

Manhattan could use another hotel. I know it's difficult to find any rooms during football weekends or other large events. I just don't understand why they had to build it on a lot that would be so much more beneficial as an apartment complex. The lack of progress and blocked off roads only adds to my ever-increasing frustration. At the very least, I hope that everything is done before the next home football game. As terrible as the drive back is, no construction would make it at least a tiny bit more enjoyable.

Lauren Komer is a sophomore in microbiology. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

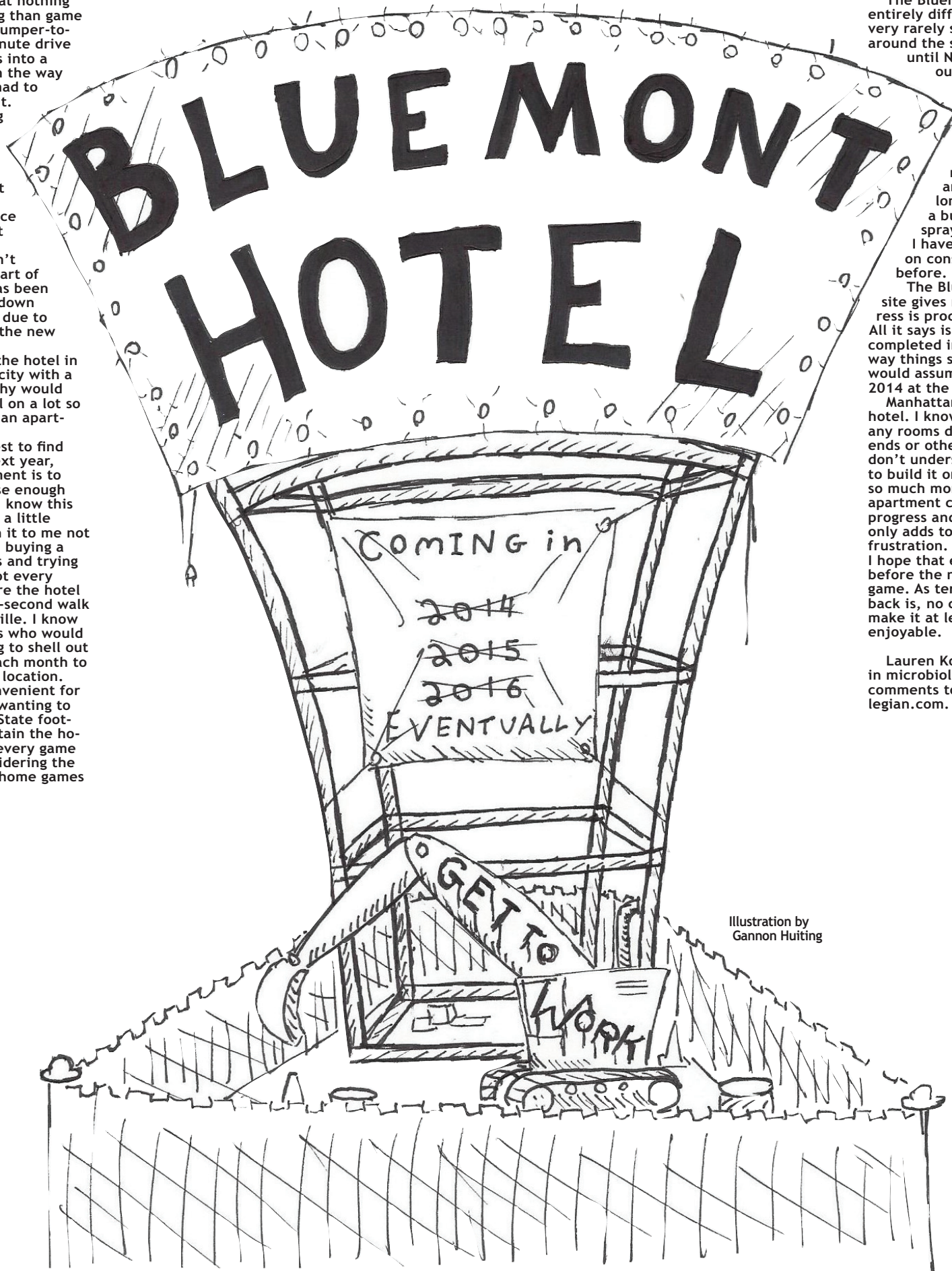


Illustration by Gannon Huiting

Remorse, compassion absent from modern society



Autumn Mumford

Why are compassion and remorse so hard to come by these days? It seems as if people are justifying their poor ethics by using the cop-out "get a sense of humor," and America is just letting it happen.

Paul Walker's death has been a centerfold for internet jokes and memes. The superstar of the notorious, octane-packed "The Fast and the Furious" franchise died in a car accident Nov. 30. Had the star died any other way, I'm sure there wouldn't even be jokes being made — but this cruel irony should not give anyone a reason to poke fun at his passing.

Walker may have been a celebrity and some may not have taken his career seriously, but Walker was also something else that was much more important — a father. He was a parent to 15-year-old Meadow Walker. I just lost my mother unexpectedly and tragically in October, and if someone made fun of her death or insulted her, like people are doing about Walker's death, I would be irate. I would find it extremely unsettling and I guarantee it would only hinder my healing.

Later that same weekend, I was sitting in a restaurant with a friend who had brought along some of her friends, people whom I did not know. We were watching the Chiefs game on TV, when one of their players was injured. They showed the injury in slow motion, clearly showing that the player had torn his ACL. One of the people at our table pointed to the screen and laughed, saying "look at that! He hurt his knee. I think it's hilarious when people get hurt." He even stated that he wasn't a Broncos fan or even a football fan, he just genuinely found it amusing that this person was injured.

Again, this was another topic that hit very close to home. When I was in high school I played basketball and looked forward to a promising basketball career in college — it was my dream. Suddenly, I shattered my ACL — and my

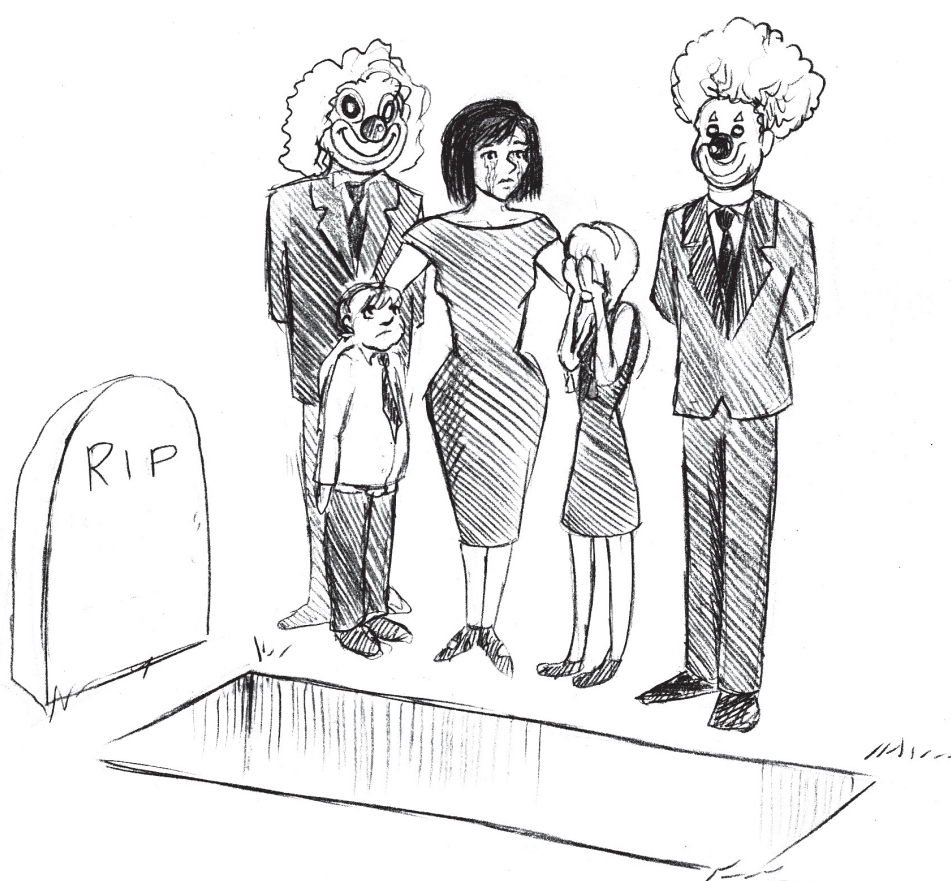


Illustration by Kathleen Murray

dreams along with it. As I watched the man get wheeled away, it broke my heart. I know that no one in the gym was laughing at me, holding my knee and crying. I couldn't believe what this young man in the restaurant had said, as he laughed at the injured and somber looking man. He was literally adding insult to injury.

Recently, a young woman dressed as a Boston bombing victim for Halloween and came to work. She literally showed up to work in a jogging outfit covered in fake blood and posted it to her Twitter account, saying "too soon?"

While this incident in particular has no direct connection to me, shouldn't we all be indignant, as Americans, to the tragic acts of the bombers, including the unsympathetic costume-wearer? Even if it doesn't affect us, and we personally don't know what it feels like to

lose a parent, receive an injury and ruin a career, or to be a victim of a national tragedy, does that mean we feel nothing about it? Does that mean we look at it with humor?

One of my defense mechanisms in life is to make jokes, or try to cheer myself up in a bad situation. I understand that. But there is a line drawn here, and crossing it can lead to making the situation worse.

As a Christian, I know that God calls us to be compassionate toward the meek, the hungry, the tired, the lost, the hurting, the sick and more. Jesus didn't shy away from them, and he certainly didn't mock them. He embraced them, and did his best to understand and heal their hurting. Colossians 3:12 reads "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

We're not Christ, but we are

called to be like Him. He uses us here on this earth to continue to do His mighty works of healing, understanding and encouraging. We should be fighting to lift up one another and uphold one another, instead of taking cheap shots to tear each other down just for the sake of a laugh or to show off our quick wit.

Even though it's cliché, do take a moment to try to imagine how that person feels or what they might be going through. Imagine how it feels to be mocked and kicked while you're already down and suffering. Think twice before you open your mouth and say something hurtful or mistreat someone.

Autumn Mumford is a junior in pre-journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

Meyers should embrace concept of respect

This letter is a reply to Laura Meyers' op-ed essay from Dec. 10. Ms. Meyers feels like she is a minority citizen because she is a conservative Christian. I am sorry that she feels discriminated against. It is up to the professors in her classes to insist upon and maintain respectful behavior in class, and no one should feel personally attacked or disrespected.

However, she is not off the hook herself. She clearly does not understand the purpose of learning about diversity. The purpose is to foster respect and courtesy towards people who are different from the group in which they find themselves. That seems to be exactly what she would like. She should embrace the concept of respect for diversity during classroom discussions.

Ms. Meyers' opinions are parroted versions of conservative attitudes common in the media today. If she wants to do well in her studies, she will need to have factual arguments and logic to back up her statements. She needs to read widely (as liberals also need to do) and learn about both sides of the issues. She needs to realize that as a white Christian, she is still in the majority in this country. Being conservative is not currently in the majority, but it has been sometimes and the pendulum swings back and forth. She needs to stop whining.

Sincerely,
Nina Ainslie Warren,
Manhattan resident

NICHOLS | Remembering the history of K-State’s ‘castle’

Continued from page 1

thing to look at. I mean it was a tragedy, but it was beautiful.” Approximately 1,500 people were present to watch Nichols Gym burn.

The students responsible for the fire were believed to have been identified at the time, but there was not enough evidence to bring charges against them, according to a Jan. 12, 2007 article from “Talking in the Library.”

Not much was left of Nichols Gymnasium after the fire, but the basement of the building, which housed the university men’s and women’s swimming pools, was still used until the completion of the Natatorium in 1970. The university allocated approximately \$10,000 in emergency funds to construct a roof over the pools, which had not been damaged in the fire.

After the completion of the Natatorium, the remaining Nichols Gym structure sat abandoned for about 10 years. K-State administrators couldn’t decide what to do with the structure, and the university didn’t have the funding to rebuild it.

Then, K-State President Duane Acker made a controversial decision that would have enormous repercussions. On April 4, 1979, President Acker recommended that the Kansas State Legislature allocate \$125,000 to raze Nichols Gym. The plan was to leave the north

wall intact, but demolish the rest of the structure to create a paved road to McCain Auditorium.

Greg Musil was the K-State student body president at the time. Musil became very involved with what happened next.

“There was already a group crusading for the reconstruction of Nichols, so that group became active. In the span of a few hours, hundreds of students gathered around the south entrance to Anderson Hall to object to any razing of Nichols,” Musil said in an email. “The event was passionate, but civil until towards the end when some students thought about pushing inside Anderson and into the President’s office. We eventually convinced everyone that was not a good idea, but that we in a leadership group would make sure the President heard the strong and united voice of the student body. As usual, the rally was an impressive statement about peaceful, but passionate and prideful K-State students making a stand for what they believed in.”

Because Acker was not on campus the day of the first protest, another protest was scheduled for later in the week. This protest also took place at the south entryway to Anderson Hall.

Gail Pennybacker, retired Emmy award-winning news reporter for ABC7 in Washington

D.C., was a student reporter for KSDB-FM in 1979. Pennybacker said she remembers these protests like they were yesterday.

“They were peaceful demonstrations, but powerful,” she said. “Many of the students at K-State at the time had been kids during the protests of the 1960s and learned from the examples of those before them, on how to stand up for what they consider important.”

According to Musil, soon after these campus protests occurred, approximately 75-100 students traveled to the state capitol in Topeka to meet with legislators and express their concerns.

“We rallied on the south steps of the capitol and then spread into the building to spread our word and our cause,” Musil said. “I remember we were graciously granted a meeting with Governor Carlin and that was very beneficial to us.”

Former Governor John Carlin, now a visiting professor in political science at K-State, remembers visiting with Musil and three other student leaders about Nichols Gym.

“I was very impressed with those students for visiting with me about their concerns,” he said.

Carlin also said he felt that students today are not as engaged as they were during this time. “To link it to the last five to 10 years, I personally think stu-

dents have been too accepting of tuition increases. If students got involved and voted one way or another, they could make a huge impact.”

Musil stated that he and his fellow campus leaders left this meeting hoping to have made a positive impression.

“Ultimately the legislature postponed a decision, created the Nichols Hall Task Force to study the alternatives, and after several public hearings, the Task Force, of which I was a member, recommended rebuilding Nichols as classroom space that would preserve part of K-State’s history,” Musil said.

The Kansas State Legislature ultimately allocated funds to the university in 1981 and construction on the building began in 1983. Three years and \$5.58 million later, Nichols Gym became Nichols Hall and was opened for students.

Nichols Hall now houses the department of communication studies, theater and dance and the department of computing and information sciences.

“From the Wabash Cannonball to classes in Nichols Hall, this history and tradition is with us 40-plus years after the fire,” Musil said. “It’s important always to remember and look back, particularly because this was one of many positive examples of how K-State’s legacy of student involvement, student participation and student gov-



courtesy of KSU Archives

Nichols Hall burns the Friday the 13th of 1968 after an arsonist set it ablaze. The interior of the building was completely destroyed and the arsonist never caught.

ernment could work in a constructive manner.”

Editor’s Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

SETZER | Big band brings holiday jazz

Continued from page 1

duty when it comes to Christmas big band music,” Goins said. “He has always been consistently good as an artist and performer. He always has great musicians and only uses top notch players. I admire him on so many levels.”

The Brian Setzer Orchestra played a variety of Christmas tunes such as “Sleigh Ride,” “Jingle Bell Rock,” “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,” “Gloria,” and more. While starting the crowd

off right for the holidays, Setzer also threw in some classics from back in the day such as: The “Stray Cat Strut,” “Jump Jive an’ Wail,” and “Ring of Fire.”

Max Williams, junior in kinesiology, enjoyed his first big band experience at the concert.

“I have never seen a band that big before,” said Williams. “They were full of energy and made me just want to get up and dance the whole time. It was a great show.”

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By Dave Green

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6 5 4 3 1 8 2 7 9
1 8 2 9 6 7 5 3 4
2 6 7 1 8 9 4 5 3
8 3 5 6 4 2 9 1 7
4 1 9 7 5 3 8 2 6
3 2 1 8 9 4 7 6 5
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